

Application No. 10/534,429
Supplemental Response dated January 29, 2007

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REMARKS

Claims 7-11 are pending. By this amendment, Applicants have amended claims 8-11.

The following remarks are made in response to the Office Action dated September 5, 2006, in which the Examiner:

rejected claim 7 under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by US Patent No. 6,202,230 to Borders; and

objected to claims 8-11 as depending from cancelled claims.

Applicants have amended claims 8-11 to correct the dependency.

As an initial matter, Applicants note that the cited reference, Borders, is the parent of divisional application serial no. 09/734,487, now US 6,276,012, issued to Borders, which was cited by Applicants in an Information Disclosure Statement filed concurrently with the filing of the present application and which was discussed in paragraph [0007] of the present application.

The Examiner rejected claim 7 as being anticipated by Borders. Claim 7, which is directed to a leg support arrangement for an operating table, recites, at least in part, each leg support is connected with the base element by means of a parallelogram joint whose joint axes are oriented perpendicular to the plane of the base element.

The Examiner asserts that Borders discloses a base element 16 and "each leg support connected with the base element by means of a parallelogram joint whose joint axes (48, 90, 92) are oriented perpendicular to the plane of the base element. Applicants disagree.

Borders fails to disclose a parallelogram joint connecting each leg support to the base element. Rather, Borders discloses that each leg support is connected to seat section 22 with a first pivot joint (around vertical axes 90, 92) and a second pivot joint (around horizontal axis 48).

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Moreover, Borders fails to disclose parallelogram joints whose axes are oriented perpendicular to the plane of the base element. Seat section 22/support frame 16 of Borders lies substantially in a horizontal plane. Thus, a joint axis that is oriented perpendicular to the plane of the frame 16 would be a substantially vertical axis. The joint axis 48 lies in a horizontal plane (see FIGS. 6, 7, 11 and 12) and is substantially parallel to the plane of support frame 16. Thus, joint axis 48 is not oriented perpendicular to the plane of the base element.

As Applicants have traversed each and every rejection and objection raised by the Examiner, Applicants respectfully request allowance of claims 7-11.

Applicants believe no fees are due with the filing of this Response; however, if it is determined that fees are required, please charge our Deposit Account No. 13-0235.

Respectfully submitted,

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